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APPLICATION NO. FILING DATE FIRST NAMED INVENTOR ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. CONFIRMATION NO. 09/941,519 08/29/2001 10559-605001 / P12889 6850 William R. Wheeler 20985 7590 06/19/2003 FISH & RICHARDSON, PC **EXAMINER** 4350 LA JOLLA VILLAGE DRIVE THOMPSON, ANNETTE M **SUITE 500** SAN DIEGO, CA 92122 ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER 2825

DATE MAILED: 06/19/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Application No. Applicant(s) Application No. Applicant(s) Applicant(s) Op/941,519 Exeminer Art Unit A. M. Thompson 2825 As HORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Extraction of time may be well-like under the provisions of 37 CPR 1.136(s). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed other 310 (s) Oblivit's him has reading date of this communication reply within the calculary minimum of the 700 (3) days will be considered simely. 11 NO period for reply is specified above, he machines statutely period will apply and will expire 35 (8) MONTH(s) from the reading date of this communication, and the 310 (s) Oblivit's him has reading benefit in the calculary minimum of the 700 (3) days will be considered simely. 11 NO period for reply is specified above, he machines statutely period will apply and will expire 35 (8) MONTH(s) from the reading date of this communication. 11 NO period for reply is specified above, he machines statutely period will apply and will expire 35 (8) MONTH(s) flow the communication. 11 NO period for reply is specified above, he machines statutely period will apply and will expire 30 (8) MONTH(s) flow the recommunication. 11 NO period for reply is specified above, he machines statutely period will apply and will expire 35 (8) MONTH(s) flow the reply statute of the communication. 11 NO period for reply is specified above, he machines statutely period will apply and will expire 35 (8) MONTH(s) flow the communication. 11 NO period for reply statutely flow in the second period will reply will be a considered statutely flow. 11 NO period for reply fleed on period flow of the provision of the provision and period will apply and will expire a flow of the provision and period flow of the provision of the provision of the provi			<u> </u>	
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DETAILED ACTION

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after allowance. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, prosecution in this application has been reopened pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on April 1, 2003 has been entered.

2. In this Continued Examination of application 09/941,519, Applicants' IDS references have been considered. However, these references have not been relied on as prior art. The claims have been reconsidered and accordingly merit the current non-final office action on the merits with rejections based on newly cited references. Claims 1, 3-18, and 20-38 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. An issue of public use or on sale activity has been raised in this application. In order for the examiner to properly consider patentability of the claimed invention under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), additional information regarding this issue is required as follows: Please supply a copy of the Mentor Graphics Renoir User's Guide or Manual in its entirety.

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Applicants are reminded that failure to fully reply to this requirement for information will result in a holding of abandonment.

- 5. **Claims 1, 3-18, 20-38** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ho, U.S. Patent 5,903,469.
- 6. Pursuant to claim 1, Ho discloses a method of designing a semiconductor device comprising maintaining a circuit design parameter file for a circuit being designed (Figs. 11 and 12), the circuit design parameter file specifying a physical characteristic (see Fig. 13, the "R" and "C" of the circuit; monitoring a design environment to detect the addition of a circuitry component to the circuit; accessing a component design parameter file that specifies the parameter for the added circuitry component see Fig. 15; updating the circuit design parameter file based on the design parameter included in the component design parameter file see (Figs. 24-28).
- 7. Ho also teaches allowing the circuit designer to request feedback concerning the physical characteristic of the circuit being designed (see Fig. 24, the Query function); wherein the physical characteristics include the silicon area, number of gates, number of transistors, number of cells (see Figs. 24-28, wherein the characteristics are included within the "attributes" selection.
- 8. Ho additionally discloses a computer program product (Figs. 18-22) and a processor and memory (Fig. 10) to perform the method claimed by Applicants.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Please reference the PTO-892 for a complete listing.

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10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to A.M. Thompson whose telephone number is (703) 305-7441. The Examiner can usually be reached Monday thru Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.. If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Matthew S. Smith, can be reached on (703) 308-1323.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956 or the Customer Service Center whose telephone number is (703)306-3329.

11. Responses to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9318, (for **OFFICIAL** communications intended for entry) (703)872-9319, (for Official **AFTER-FINAL** communications)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Plaza 4, 2021 South Clark

Place, Arlington, VA., Fourth Floor (Receptionist)

A.W. THOMPSON Patent Examiner

15 June 2003